

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00337 221105Z

11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O P 220837Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6699
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0337

STADIS////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR LE JO SY XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING-LEBANON

REF: AMMAN 00335

1. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL DETAILS PROVIDED TO ME BY KING
AFTER HIS MEETING WITH ASAD IN DAMASCUS JANUARY 21(REFTEL)
2. ON DRUZE PARTICIPATION (PARA 4 REFTL) KING REPORTED
THAT JUMBLATT HAD MET WITH ASAD ON JANUARY
20. AT THAT TIME HE SEEMED RELUCTANT TO GET DRUZE
INVOLVED. NOW SYRIANS WERE MYSTIFIED AS TO WHO WAS
IN CONTROL OF DRUZE OR WHY JUMBLANT HAD APPARENTLY
CHANGED HIS VIEWS.
3. SYRIANS FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT CHAMOUN WITH
WHOM THEY HAD TRIED TO WORK, BUT WHOM THEY NOW
FEEL HAS TURNED ON THEM. HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS
THAT "PALESTINIANS ARE THE MEANEST PEOPLE HE HAD
EVERY KNOWN" HAVE DEEPLY UNDERMINED HIS ALREADY DOUBTFUL
ACCEPTANCE IN DAMASCUS. KING CONTINUED TO URGE THAT HE BE DEALT

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WITH AS A NECESSARY PART OF THE EQUATION. KING OFFERED

TO HELP WITH CHAMOUN AND SYRIANS AGREED SO KING
SAID HE WILL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH.

4. KING GAVE ME A RATHER LONG RUN DOWN ON MILITARY
SITUATION, MOST OF WHICH IS NOW BEING CARRIED IN
PRESS REPORT-FALL OF NUMBER OF STRATEGICALLY PLACED
TOWNS AND VILLAGES ALONG DAMASCUS-BEIRUT ROAD,
INCLUDING SHTURA; PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST EXTREMISTS
CONTROL OF MOST AREAS ALONG SYRIAN-LEBANESE FRONTIERS;
SEIGE OF AN AIR BASE NEAR TRIPOLI; FALL OF VILLAGES AROUND
ZGHORTA TO MOSLEMS AND SO FORTH.

5. KING SAID THAT ONE WEEK AGO ASAD HAD WARNED
HIM OF REAL DETERIORATION TO BE EXPECTED IF CHRISTIANS
TOOK KARANTINA QUARTER AND MASLAKH IN BEIRUT.

ONE OF KING'S MAJOR THEME WAS THAT AS TIME
PROGRESSES, ASAD IS LESS AND LESS IN CONTROL OF
PLO/PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS FORCES, EVEN INCLUDING SAIQA

6. SECOND MAJOR THEME WAS THAT FRANJEIH IS MAJOR
HOLD OUT ON AN AGREEMENT TO CEASEFIRE AND TO LAY BASIS
FOR PEACE ON SYRIAN PROPOSAL WHICH KING KEPT
REFERRING TO AS FIVE POINTS (WE NOW SEE PRESS
REFERENCES TO SEVEN POINTS).

7. I ASKED KING ABOUT GEMAYEL. HE SAID SYRIANS
NOW THINK HE IS TOO "LIMITED" TO BE OF MUCH USE
IN WORKING OUT CEASEFIRE AND SETTLEMENT.

8. KING WAS AFRAID THAT AS PALESTINIANS AND "EXTREMISTS"
CONTROL EXPANDED IN LEBANON, WHICH HE SAID SEEMED
CLEAR TO BE HAPPENING AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S
FIGHTING, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ASAD TO
DISLODGE THEM.

9. DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY.
PICKERING

SECRET

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